

Educational Uses of Blogs, Wikis, RSS Feeds, etc.  
From Exploration Guide: <http://www.tltgroup.org/resources/blogs.htm>

**Questions to ask** first before deciding what tool to use:

Blogs, wikis, podcasts, feeds, ... provide the capabilities to do variations on the same basic functions. Most of these tools permit :

- Creating and editing chunks of text
- Making those chunks accessible to others on a Web page
- Creating and editing comments about those chunks
- Making those comments accessible on a Web page
- Adding pictures, sound recordings, and other kinds of media files to some of the chunks
- Organizing the chunks.
- Controlling who has access to the chunks
- Enabling people to receive notifications about new items or new modifications of old items

The answers to the following questions determine which tools (blogs, wikis, podcasts, feeds, ...) are likely to be helpful with the educational purpose you have in mind.

- 1. Who should be able to create chunks of text?**
- 2. Who should be able to edit chunks of text?**
- 3. Who should be able to add comments about chunks of text?**
- 4. Who should be able to edit comments?**
- 5. [Same as previous 4 questions, but applied to images and sounds instead of text.]**
- 6. Who should be able to organize, re-organize, delete items/chunks?**
- 7. Who should be able to control access to the assembled materials?**
- 8. Who should be able to determine what kinds of notifications are made available about new or changed items?**
- 9. Who should be able to receive the notifications? How much choice should they have about the frequency and nature of the notifications?**
- 10. Why not just assign readings in books and give tests instead of using any other media, methods? What goals and characteristics of this situation require something other than readings and test?**